

March 2004

SOUTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Major Phil Tilt

Overview

In March 2004, the Southern Command filled percentage of authorized traffic sergeant and trooper positions decreased. One sergeant, one trooper, and one cadet resigned, increasing the vacancy rate to 16.8% of the authorized traffic positions as compared to a 14.8% vacancy rate in February 2004. The vacancy rate was reduced substantially in March 2004 as compared to the approximate 39% vacancy rate in March 2003. The filled percentage of authorized sergeant and trooper positions assigned to Commercial Operations is 100%, as compared to an approximate 53% vacancy rate in March 2003. However, 6 Commercial troopers are currently assigned temporarily to Traffic Operations. Although the Highway Patrol has filled a number of vacancies for the Southern Command, most of these troopers are yet to be deployed in the field. Effectively, this means the Southern Command Traffic Operations is still severely under staffed. During the past two months we have continued to lose experienced personnel to other local agencies, and we continue to struggle with a substantial lack of personnel working the road. Dispatch vacancies remain at 18 positions. The recent dispatch recruitment resulted in 39 applications being accepted and continue to be processed. The Center will continue to struggle with the lack of manpower until the vacant positions are filled and the personnel are trained.

Southern Command personnel handled 1026 crashes during March 2004 as compared to 954 total crashes in March 2003. This was an increase of 11.2%. There were a total of 9 fatal crashes in March 2004 and 9 people died, compared to 5 fatal crashes in March 2003 where 5 people died. The Southern Command documented a 2.1% decrease in the overall number of commercial vehicle crashes. We investigated 46 total commercial crashes in the month of March 2004, compared to 47 in March 2003. Of the commercial crashes investigated this month, 1 resulted in a fatality, 15 resulted in injuries, and the remainder were property damage only. Crashes involving commercial vehicles represented 4.3% of the total crashes handled by Southern Command in March 2004. Commercial Operations will continue to focus on hazardous moving, and out-of-service violations which cause or contribute to crashes.

The Southern Command continues to see improvements in enforcement. In March 2004, these improvements are reflected in two specific areas. Southern Command maintained a zero increase in DUI arrests from crashes and a 16.2% increase in occupant restraint enforcement in March 2004 as compared to March 2003. There were substantial decreases in overall activity, and at the same time there were substantial increases in crash investigation time and overtime. These negative changes, which were expected, are attributed directly to the deployment of the IPAQ's, the new crash form, and the entry of crash data into the Nevada Citation and Accident Tracking System (NCATS). The increase in overtime is being partially addressed through the addition of six new computers into the report writing room to reduce the backup of personnel trying to download and manually enter the crash data. The decrease in overall activity and increase in crash investigation time will be resolved with increased familiarity and experience with the new crash report, IPAQ equipment, and use of the NCATS system. Southern Command Commercial Operations is struggling in their activity in many areas when compared to March 2003. Commercial Operations overall activity will be addressed with the assigned personnel. Southern Command personnel continue to perform their duties under increasing work loads in a professional manner, and I continue to commend their hard work and dedication.

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CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	March 04		March 03	% Change		February 04	% Change
Total Crashes	1061		954	11.2%		1026	3.4%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	755		680	11.0%		769	-1.8%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	297		269	10.4%		251	18.3%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	9		5	80.0%		6	50.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	39		39	0.0%		32	21.9%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	9		5	80.0%		6	50.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		2	-50.0%		2	-50.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		1	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	5		1	400.0%		1	400.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		2	-200.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	2		1	100.0%		0	200.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	46		47	-2.1%		64	-28.1%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	30		38	-21.1%		52	-42.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	15		8	87.5%		12	25.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1		1	0.0%		0	100.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.8%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 3.7%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 28.6%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 4.3%

CRASH ANALYSIS

During the month of March, the Southern Command experienced an increase in the number of injury and property damage crashes, as compared to March 2003. The increases in crashes can be attributed to the following:

- Major construction on US95, IR215, and IR15 (of the 978 crashes that occurred in Urban Las Vegas, 571 or 58%, occurred in or near construction zones.)
- An increase in vehicular tourist traffic (Traffic volume on IR15 at the California / Nevada Stateline increased 4.8%. In addition, traffic volume on all other road ways increased 4.5 %.)
- Increased population growth in the Las Vegas Valley (Avg. of 5,000 new residents per month, an annual increase of 3.06%)

Crash Analysis, Fatal Analysis, and Commercial Crash Analysis reference page 8

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS	March 04		March 03	% Change		February 04	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	39		39	0.0%		32	21.9%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	128		156	-17.9%		150	-14.7%
Other Arrests	701		873	-19.7%		733	-4.4%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	339		369	-8.1%		337	0.6%
Speed violations	2719		3763	-27.7%		2520	7.9%
Hazardous moving violations	2011		2092	-3.9%		1789	12.4%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	710		611	16.2%		558	27.2%
Total violations [above violations included]	9429		10506	-10.3%		8586	9.8%
COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	26		42	-38.1%		41	-36.6%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	124		367	-66.2%		228	-45.6%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	575		758	-24.1%		533	7.9%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	3		N/A	-82.4%		N/A	-57.1%
Total safety violations -- citation	215		383	-43.9%		226	-4.9%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1706		3237	-47.3%		1695	0.6%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	111		137	-19.0%		117	-5.1%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	57		120	-52.5%		71	-19.7%
Total school buses inspected	583		198	194.4%		385	51.4%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	113		35	222.9%		66	71.2%
Total trucks weighed	433		392	10.5%		204	112.3%
Total overweight citations	36		31	16.1%		52	-30.8%
Total dyed fuel inspections	578		758	-23.7%		535	8.0%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%

*Seatbelt and Child Restraint

Commercial Operations Activity Included

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ANALYSIS

During March, the Southern Command experienced a decrease in overall activity as compared to March 2003. The drop in activity is directly related to the following:

- Transition period for the new crash report (Form 5)
- Increase in report times with the introduction of 33 IPAQ's
- Increase in training hours
- Decrease in manpower

Commercial Field Enforcement Analysis reference page 8

STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

	Total Authorized Positions		Current Positions Staffed		Vacancy Rate	
STAFFING	March 04	March 03	Administrative Assignment	Field Operations	Positions Vacant	Vacancy Rate Percentage
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	149	156	38*	86	25.0	16.8%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	26	30	14	12	0.0	0.0%
Commercial CVSI	5	5	3	1	1.0	20.0%
BELOW WORK HOURS ARE FIELD OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ONLY						
WORK HOURS LOST	March 04		March 03	% Change	February 04	% Change
Annual leave	1164		736.5	58.0%	729	59.7%
Compensatory leave	594.50		239.5	148.2%	419	41.9%
Sick leave [personal and family]	1363.25		1117.75	22.0%	1508.95	-9.7%
Military leave	54		320	-83.1%	0	5400.0%
Holiday off	0		0	0.0%	141	-14100.0%
Training	2485.43		1326.5	87.4%	1735.47	43.2%
Administrative leave	166		0	16600.0%	2	8200.0%
Leave without pay	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total work hours lost	5827.18		3740.25	55.8%	4535.42	28.5%
OVERTIME	March 04		March 03	% Change	February 04	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	2504.25		1218	105.6%	1832.83	36.6%
Compensatory overtime claimed	214.27		142.5	50.4%	203.25	5.4%
Total overtime hours	2718.52		1360.5	99.8%	2036.08	33.5%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	March 04		March 03	% Change	February 04	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours**	17646		19376	-8.9%	18511	-4.7%
Work hours lost	5827.18		3740.25	55.8%	4535.42	28.5%
Overtime	2718.52		1360.5	99.8%	2036.08	33.5%
Total hours worked	14537.33		16996.25	-14.5%	16011.66	-9.2%

* Admin assignment includes: TDY, academy, & staff assignments

** 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

STAFFING / WORK HOURS

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

During March, one sergeant retired and one trooper resigned. The Southern Command currently has five troopers in the PSTO Training Program. These troopers will fill existing vacancies within the Southern Command. With the recent announcement from allied agencies of their intent to hire laterally, the Southern Command anticipates further loss of manpower.

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

For the month of March, the Southern Command Commercial Operation had 3 sergeants, 1 acting sergeant, 20 troopers, 2 rural troopers and 4 CVSI's. One sergeant, and 1 trooper are on administrative assignment, 1 trooper is on extended sick leave, and 1 trooper is in training. One trooper is assigned to a full-time back ground investigator position. The Southern Command is currently carrying one vacancy in the CVSI position. Six traffic troopers were transferred to commercial position control numbers in January, those positions are currently in Traffic and will be counted as administrative positions until they report to Commercial Operations. As a result of administrative assignments, and extended sick leave, Southern Command Commercial Operations activity is generated by 10 troopers and 2 sergeants.

Southern Command commercial personnel attended or instructed 676 hours of training in March. The training consisted of:

Supervisory Training	North American Standards
Bloodborne Pathogens	Workplace Safety
Cultural Diversity	Motor Coach
Defensive Tactics	Communications Training
Industry Training	Dyed Fuel and Over Weight

OVERTIME

Overtime showed a 100% increase compared to last year. The increase compared to February 2003 was over 33%. This increase was the result of implementing the new IPAQ's. The amount of time to download and complete reports at the trooper level has increased through the learning phase of this project. The amount of time necessary for supervisors to approve and /or return the reports has also increased.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

CRIMINAL INTERDICTION

During the month of March, the Criminal Interdiction Team conducted 242 traffic stops and 42 motorist assists. These traffic stops resulted in 33 searches and 2 arrests. The following items were seized:

Cash	\$18,909.00
Methamphetamine	480 grams street value estimated at \$11,000.00

RATIOS – CRASHES AND ENFORCEMENT

ACCIDENT RATIOS

March 04

Region wide crash ratios per Traffic position	
Total	12.3
Property	8.8
Injury	3.5
Fatal	0.1
DUI	0.5
Commercial vehicle	0.5
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.0 *
without seatbelts	0.2
with seatbelts	0.6

* Including non-motorist fatalities

FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Region wide enforcement ratios per Traffic position	
DUI arrests from crashes	0.5
DUI arrests prior to crashes	1.5
Other Arrests	8.2
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	3.9
Speed violations	31.6
Hazardous moving violations	23.4
Occupant restraint violations	8.3
Total violations	109.6

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

Troopers logged 21,828 contacts with the public. In addition to field enforcement and response to traffic crashes, these incidents included: motorist assists, debris removal, medical assists, allied agency assistance, and traffic hazard mitigation.

The traffic enforcement ratios have been broken down further, to give a more accurate picture of the distribution of workload in the Southern Command between Urban and Rural Operations:

- In the Rural areas of the Southern Command traffic troopers assigned had a crash ratio of approximately 4 crashes per staffed field operations position. Approximately 102 citations were issued per staffed position and approximately 1 DUI arrest was made per position.
- In the Urban areas of the Southern Command, the crash ratio was approximately 16 crashes per staffed traffic position. Approximately 120 citations were issued per staffed field position and approximately 3 DUI arrests were made per position.

RATIOS – CRASHES AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd*

INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

March-04

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	2.2
Other traffic violations - citations	*	10.3
Total safety inspections [all levels]		44.2
Terminal inspections TIP		0.2
Total safety violations -- citation	*	17.9
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.4
Total safety violations -- repair order		131.2
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		3.0
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		8.5
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection		0.2
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		4.4
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection		0.1
Total school buses inspected		44.8
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		8.7
Total trucks weighed	*	36.1
Total overweight citations	*	3.0
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	48.2
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.0

* Commercial sworn only

The Southern Command Commercial Operation is showing a decrease in traffic violations from 16.3 for last month to 10.3 citations per person for March. There was a 7.9% increase in total inspections showing 44.2 per person. There was a 112% increase in trucks weighed compared to last month, which resulted in 36.1 trucks weighed per position. Vehicles placed out of service reflected a 5% decrease or 8.5 per position, and drivers placed out of service reflected a 19 % decrease or 4.4 per position as compared to last year.

ANALYSIS CONTINUED

CRASH ANALYSIS *Continued from page 2*

In March 2004, training hours doubled from March 2003. This increase equates to 89 work days lost to training. Additionally, the crash reporting times have increased due to the transition of the Nevada Citation and Accident Tracking System (NCATS) and IPAQ use. This equates to an average of 30 minutes to one hour of additional report time per crash, depending on the users' computer skills. Those not having the use of an IPAQ, have increased time spent reporting by as much as one and a half hours per crash, due to manually entering the crash reports into the database. With the implementation of the NCATS, we have experienced problems which include operator error, software problems, and server down time. In spite of these challenges, the men and women of the Southern Command, continue their enforcement efforts. Additionally, the troopers of the Southern Command increased enforcement of occupant restraint violations in our ongoing effort to reduce crash severity.

FATAL ANALYSIS

Although two auto/pedestrian crashes this month were alcohol involved, in each case the pedestrian was intoxicated and their error caused the crash, so the crashes were not reported as DUI's. In three more cases, the blood test results were not yet available. As a result, the DUI break down for this reporting period may not accurately reflect the number of crashes involving drug or alcohol impairment. This month, the Southern Command experienced an increase in drivers killed while wearing their seatbelts, which can be linked to the overall increase in voluntary seatbelt compliance there were more fatal crashes than last month, and as with last month, the number of fatal crashes went up when compared with the same reporting period in 2003.

COMMERCIAL CRASH ANALYSIS

The Southern Command investigated 1061 crashes in March, with 46 commercial crashes, approximately 4% of the over all total. Thirty of the commercial crashes were property damage, and 15 were injury. There was one fatality involving a commercial vehicle during the month of March. Preliminary information shows that 12 of the commercial vehicle crashes were driver error, and five crashes were the result of mechanical defects. Southern Command continues to see a decrease in the number of commercial crashes. Commercial crashes decreased 28% compared to this same period last year.

COMMERCIAL FIELD ENFORCEMENT ANALYSIS *Continued from page 3*

The Southern Command Commercial Operation is showing a decrease in traffic violations of 66%, and hazardous moving at 38% over the same period last year. We did effect an increase of 8% in total inspections, and 112% increase in trucks weighed. Commercial personnel showed a 4% decrease in safety citations. Vehicles placed out of service reflected a 5% decrease, and drivers placed out of service showed a 10% decrease from the same period in 2003. In the continuing effort to reduce commercial crashes, we are still emphasizing hazardous moving violations. The CVSI's have increased the number of school buses inspected, showing a 194% increase.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

EVIDENCE VAULT

During the month of March, the evidence vault processed in a total of 247 items for 142 cases. This is an 18% increase in case volume from the previous month. There was a 25% increase in items processed into the vault. A review of the submissions showed that NHP submitted 84% of these items; NDI 10%; P&P 4%; Fire Marshal 1.2%; and DMV Compliance Enforcement 1.6%. The evidence vault disposed of 65 items during March, which is a 78% increase from the previous month.

CONTRACT SERVICES

Contract Services recorded 1455.25 hours of contract overtime from 11 contracts. These contracts reimbursed the Highway Patrol \$6,569.25, with \$83,085.59 still pending. A large portion of the hours for the month were dedicated to the three day NASCAR event held at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. This brings the NHP total contract service overtime for fiscal year 2003/2004 to 3,549 hours worked. The 70 contracts have resulted in the reimbursement of \$203,741.49.

PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH CENTER

The installation of 54 call boxes has been completed on Interstate 15 from the California State line to the Saint Rose Parkway Interchange. The call boxes will be answered by Public Safety Dispatchers (PSD's) and training will be completed by the time the call boxes are operational. The call boxes are expected to become operational on Monday, April 5, 2004 with the final acceptance by the Nevada Department of Transportation.

During the month of March, two PSD's were hired and one returned from extended leave. This brings Southern Command Dispatch staffing to 16, with 18 PSD positions remaining vacant. The efforts and dedication of personnel during the recent Public Safety Dispatch orientation has proven to be a success, in that one applicant is in the final stages of the hiring process and 22 are currently progressing through background investigation process.

In an attempt to address the existing vacancies, the Southern Command has initiated a request for job share of PSD positions. This would allow retired PSD's to return to the Public Safety Dispatch Center working less than half time without jeopardizing their retirement benefits from the Public Employees Retirement System. The job share program is awaiting final approval from NHP Headquarters.

The following is a summary of call types received in the Southern Command Public Safety Dispatch Center:

- 728 media calls (an increase of over 12% from February 2004)
- 155,737 radio transmissions (an increase by 6.5% from March 2003 and an increase of 7.7% from February 2004)
- 33,517 telephone calls (an increase by 1% from February 2004 and a decrease of 2% from March 2003)

RECORDS SECTION

The records section had 917 visitors requesting services in March. The section processed 1,092 crash reports. There were 28 office reports taken. During March, 6,822 reports were photocopied and 1,362 pieces of correspondence were mailed out, eliminating a small backlog from the previous month. This backlog was eliminated because of a four hour overtime session that processed 450 pieces of correspondence. Personnel levels remained 3 AA1 positions short during the month of March. Of the 539 vehicles towed in March, 147 impound releases were documented by this section.

OFFICE HIT AND RUN REPORTS

Of the 28 crash reports taken at the front counter, 12 were hit and run crashes. We cleared 1 report from March, 3 reports from January, and 6 reports from February.

COURT SERVICES SECTION

The Court Services Section received 464 bench warrants from the area courts during the month of March. Three hundred thirty eight warrants were cleared from the Criminal Justice Information System. This section validated 3,219 active warrants, checking for accuracy and completeness. Court Services accomplished the above work load with one vacant position. This section arranged 21 in-state transports on wanted subjects, which was an increase of 100% from the previous month

DATA ENTRY

The data entry section entered 1,819 citations and 1,247 crashes for the month of March.

AVERAGE BAC

The average blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of drivers arrested in March was 0.144%. Drivers arrested prior to crashing had an average BAC of 0.140%, and drivers arrested post crash had an average BAC of 0.158%. Of all drivers arrested, 1% tested positive for controlled substance. In addition, 7% of drivers arrested had a prior conviction for DUI; this is down 1% from the previous month. The average age for all drivers arrested for DUI was 34 years old.

PERSONNEL***NEW HIRES***

Trisa Mione - Trooper
Joseph Conlin - Trooper
Brett Pruitt - Trooper

RESIGNATIONS

Angela Newman

RETIREMENTS

Sergeant Greg Roehm

COMMENDATIONS

- A citizen wrote to thank Mary Shadel for her excellent customer service skills.
- Angie Wick wrote a commendation letter to Shanel Morris thanking her for doing a great job in Court Services, and for assisting at the Front Office.
- A citizen wrote to thank Sergeant Mack for assistance with changing a flat tire.
- Citizens wrote to thank Trooper Wolff for going the extra mile and making a difference for teenagers with her involvement in the Driver's Edge program.
- Trooper Moses received a commendation letter from Colonel Hosmer for his commitment in representing the NHP and outstanding performance of his daily duties.
- Sergeant Smith wrote commendation letters to Troopers James, Reimer, and Prosser for volunteering to stay over their designated shift and assist with traffic control.
- Sergeants Lattin & Lawson wrote a commendation letter to Trooper Solow for his idea of shifting Las Vegas Urban Traffic Operations to nine (9) hour shifts.
- Major Tilt wrote commendation letters to Southern and Northern Command troopers thanking them for their involvement in the funeral service for Governor Mike O'Callaghan.
- Captain Ellison wrote commendation letters thanking all personnel for their involvement with the PSD testing.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Nellis Air Force Base, New personnel briefing on traffic laws
March 2, 2004; 75 personnel in attendance. Briefed personnel on Nevada traffic laws and DUI with question and answers.

Drivers Edge, Las Vegas Motor Speedway
March 13, 14, 27 and 28. Spoke to teenage adults on the dangers of driving irresponsibly. Two hundred in attendance at each presentation.

NHRA/NHP presentation to Shadow Ridge High School. March 19. Spoke to 1500 high school teenagers on the dangers of driving irresponsibly and "Race on the Track; Never on the Street" Program.

John Daly Radio Show. Live question and answers over radio about traffic conditions and the motoring public. March 9, 16, 23 and 30.

H.E.A.T. trading card photos. March 12, photos were taken of NHP personnel participating in the trading cards for HEAT. OTS is funding this program.

Thirty-seven other media interviews over fatal crashes, emergency road closures, installation of call boxes on I-15 and weather related traffic problems.

Nevada Highway Patrol

Southern Command

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EVENTS

- Laughlin River Run April 24th & 25th
- Baker to Vegas April 24th & 25th
- Police Motorcycle Competition
(Tucson, AZ) April 24th & 25th



**Harvey Weatherford accompanied by his family
on the day of his promotion to Lieutenant.**

"Gates of success and growth are always open
for those who strive stronger and work harder."

Unknown